TO: Courtney English, Chairman of the Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education

FROM: Branden Printup, CEO of Atlanta Children’s Zone

Date: June 2, 2017

RE: Requesting Purchase of David T. Howard School

Education is the cornerstone of safe and prospering communities in America today. The Atlanta Children’s Zone is a nonprofit based in Atlanta dedicated to providing foundational knowledge for our youth and servicing community efforts. Currently the David T. Howard School sits vacant in the Old Fourth Ward, and the community around it has suffered greatly due to its permanent closing. The once beautiful and beloved building has been vandalized and robbed of its metals for criminal activity. The Old Fourth Ward community has become riddled with vagrancy and neglect. It is hard to believe that this school, funded and named after a former slave who eventually became one of Atlanta’s first black millionaires, once educated historical figures like Martin Luther King Jr. To provide educational instruction and community assistance for the children and families of Atlanta, I propose to purchase the David T. Howard School from the Atlanta Public School system. The Atlanta Children’s Zone would like to renovate, this school building, and add on to it, and turn it into a new facility that serves grades k-12.

Selling the David T. Howard School to the Atlanta Children’s Zone Nonprofit Organization will allow us to restore the school to its previous glory. We desire first to open a charter elementary and middle school using this facility, and soon after we will open a charter high school with building additions in this area. These schools follow an ongoing assessment based curriculum that focuses on college preparation. Small classroom numbers, differentiation, and active student engagement will be focal points of our nurturing educational environment. We also plan to facilitate before, during, and after school programs to increase health and college preparation for students inside of this community zone. Along with the three schools, we will create multiple community based programs that service the residents of Atlanta. One such program will be a reoccurring class for parents on raising children from birth through their toddler years. In addition to the youth league soccer association that uses the grounds for their season games, we would also like to create more sports leagues that the children of this neighborhood and all of Atlanta can participate in on our grounds. These incentives based programs, and others like it for varying purposes, will build trust in the community by providing familial support and allow the Atlanta Children’s Zone to assess the needs of the community.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Atlanta Children’s Zone, I have created multiple partnerships in the business and educational world to help in supporting the schools and programs that we intend to place in this community. I would love to add you to this growing family. The Atlanta Children’s Zone has also begun the process of applying for the FY 2017 Charter Schools Program Grant for Replication and Expansion of High Quality Charter Schools that will provide substantial financial assistance upon receipt. Optimal purchase time would be by August 2017 so that we can finish renovations. The current opening date of the school is August 6th, 2018. At your convenience, please contact me so we might discus my proposal to purchase the David T. Howard School and its property.